

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the last paragraph on page 7 with the following:

The support shafts 30b, 30c, 30d, the motors 32b, 32c, 32d, and the brackets 34b, 34c 34d are identical in structure to the support shaft 30a, the motor 32a, and the bracket 34a. Those parts of the support shafts 30b, 30c, 30d, the motors 32b, 32c, 32d, and the brackets 34b, 34c, 34d which are identical to those of the support shaft 30a, the motor 32a, and the bracket 34a are denoted by identical reference characters ~~and will not be described in detail below.~~ Accordingly, descriptions for identical parts are herein omitted where such would be redundant.

Please replace the bridging paragraph on pages 8 and 9 with the following:

The cassette 54 has a cassette casing 56 and a lid 58 removably mounted on the cassette casing 56, with the stimuable phosphor sheet S housed in the cassette casing 56. The cassette casing 56 has grooves 60 defined in inner side wall surfaces. The lid 58 has side edges slidably fitted in the grooves 60 in the cassette casing 56. The lid 58 has a tab 62 projecting from a substantially central portion of a side edge other than those side edges which are slidably fitted in the grooves 60. The lid 58 is removed from ~~and installed on~~ the cassette casing 56 after the cassette 54 has been inserted into the apparatus housing 22. Further, the lid 58 is installed on the cassette casing 56 when the cassette 54 is to be removed from the apparatus housing 22.

Please replace the first two full paragraphs on page 14 with the following:

When the support table 14 is raised, ~~lowered~~, the light collecting device ~~16~~ is moved ~~closely to the stimuable phosphor sheet S (see FIG. 1)~~ is moved closer to the light collecting device 16, enabling for an increased light collecting efficiency and an increased image S/N ratio.

After the support table 14 is ~~lowered~~ raised, the motor 92 is energized to rotate the ball screw 88 about its own axis to displace the guide member 82 from a position above a front end of the stimuable phosphor sheet S along the linear guide 90 toward the motor 92. The box 76 coupled to the guide member 82 is also displaced, and hence the photomultiplier 66, the light guide 64, and the reflecting mirror 68 are also displaced, toward the motor 92, because the photomultiplier 66 and the light guide 64 are coupled to the box 76 by the first joints 94 and the reflecting mirror 68 is coupled to the box 76 by the second joints 96 and the guide member 82.